United Nations A/67/829–S/2013/222

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 April 2013
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 8 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

At noon today, 8 April 2013, Damascus witnessed yet another act of terrorism. A suicide bomber detonated a car bomb between the quarters of Sab' Bahrat and Shahbandar, in an area that is currently crowded with residents and busy with traffic. Thus far, 15 civilians and passers-by have been reported killed and 53 wounded, in addition to extensive material damage, particularly to the Salim Bukhari school building, the Bu'ayra mosque, civilian homes and passing or parked cars.

This latest terrorist atrocity follows a series of attacks from shells, mortars and indiscriminate weapons that have struck civilian institutions and areas in Damascus city over the last few days. In one particularly horrific crime, armed terrorist groups shelled the Architectural Engineering Faculty of Damascus University, causing 15 deaths and several severe injuries.

The suicide bombings and indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas in Damascus and many other regions of Syria have not spared educational, cultural, media, medical and religious institutions, or even humanitarian initiatives such as homes for orphans and persons with special needs. They illustrate the modus operandi of the armed terrorist groups, which receive substantial material and logistical support from States within and beyond the region, in addition to political backing which drives their contempt for any laws or limits and entrenches their confidence that they will not be held accountable for their actions, given the double standards of certain States in complying with their international counter-terrorism commitments.

Most recently, the resolution adopted by the League of Arab States on 26 March 2013 has encouraged the provision of funds and weapons to the terrorists,

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thereby holding in contempt the international counter-terrorism obligations incumbent on all States. Owing to the hegemony of certain States, that organization has become a means to destabilize the region in violation of Articles 52 and 53 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Syrian Arab Republic recalls its previous letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. If the crisis in Syria is to be resolved through political means and on the basis of a comprehensive national dialogue, in accordance with the consensus of the international community, those States that support, train, arm and shelter armed terrorist groups must first and foremost desist from such practices, which violate their international obligations and the United Nations resolutions on combating and eradicating terrorism. Syria again demands that the Security Council should adopt a clear and resolute position, affirm its determination to combat terrorism and send a definite message to terrorists and their backers that the international community is genuinely committed to combating that scourge wherever and whenever it occurs.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that terrorists and murderers will not deter it from combating terrorism. The Syrian Arab Army will continue to fulfil its constitutional role by defending the nation's territorial integrity, sovereignty and institutions. The Syrian people in its entirety stands alongside it in rejecting the groups' criminal and destructive acts and their extremist ideas.

At the same time, the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to take the necessary genuine steps to implement the political programme put forward by President Bashar Al-Assad in order to resolve the crisis. That programme is based on national dialogue, which is the only way to emerge from the crisis and fulfil the aspirations of the Syrian people.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the
Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations